

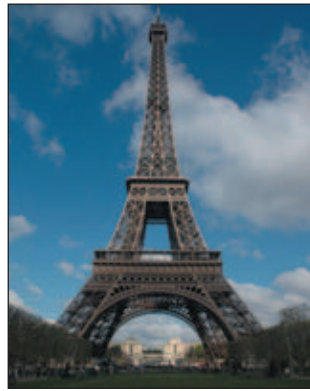
**Asian-Pacific
Heritage
hoopla**

Page 3



**Paris:
Getting lost
in City of Light**

Pages 6 and 7



**Seniors' plans
for life
post-Hohenfels**

Page 8



TRAINING TIMES

Vol. 26 No. 11

Serving the 100th Area Support Group communities of Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

June 7, 2005

Keeping cool head key to trouble-free move

INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT AGENCY – EUROPE

Although a large number of Soldiers and their families leave Europe each summer, transportation officials from the Installation Management Agency – Europe Logistics Division said the permanent change-of-station cycle would be busier than usual. They recommended the following to make shipments of household goods go more smoothly:

- If possible, get to the local transportation office about 45 days before you wish to move, rather than waiting until the last minute. Those who receive orders with fewer than 45 days' notice should go immediately.
- Try to remain flexible with your pickup schedule. Requests are considered, but make alternate plans and be prepared to accept them. Normally, personnel can choose their dates, but the high volume this summer might make that impossible.
- Consider fellow Army families. A Soldier who wishes to report early to his next duty station for no compelling reason, for example, might be asked to defer his pickup as an accommodation for a family that must leave earlier. Such requests should be carefully weighed.
- Get a confirmed pickup date for your household goods before making other plans. Do not reserve airplane tickets to your next duty station, and postpone vacation bookings until you are certain. Remember, you might not get the day desired, which could force you to change travel arrangements.
- Be prepared to wait a little longer for delivery of your belongings once you arrive at your next duty station, as Army officials expect that the seasonal surge will affect posts worldwide.

For more information, call your transportation office at 475-7222, 476-2860 or 466-2760/2860/2101.

New shuttles serve troops as first legs of return trips

100TH ASG PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

A daily shuttle service was established last week for 3rd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers and their families making permanent change-of-station moves to the United States. Transportation is provided free of charge to airports in Munich, Nuremberg and Rhein-Main Air Base, near Frankfurt.

Lt. Col. Carlos Trevino, director of logistics for the 100th Area Support Group, explained that the scores of troops leaving Europe were the impetus behind the operation.

"They are the priority," he said.

See *Shuttles*, page 4



Photo by Alice Adler

William Schmalz, whose family departed from Hohenfels this month, hands his bicycle to Michael Kustner, a German moving company employee, May 31. For more articles about getting ready to go, see page 4.

Q&A

In the military, summertime means major moves. As permanent change-of-station season shifted into high gear, 'Training Times' asked, "What will you miss most about Germany?"



Janet Dunn
"Traveling around Europe and my friends"

James Christian
"The food — especially the *Cordon Bleu*"



Chanissa Raybon
"My friends, teachers and the small-town country atmosphere"

Eric Bohn
"All the snow, my friends and snowboarding trips"



Marrisa Romero
"Traveling — and my boyfriend"

Interviews and photos by Kathy Jordan

Commander's column

Make most of European tour

BY COL. RICHARD JUNG
100TH AREA SUPPORT GROUP COMMANDER

Isn't this weather gorgeous? Freezing rain as late as May, and then we were frying at 90 F before June. Whew! After a long winter, I guess everyone is champing at the bit to get out in the sun. Me too — my wrinkles need tanning — and, like me, I bet you're wondering what's going on in this neck of the woods.

There's plenty to do, but you've got to scope out the sources of information and spend just a few minutes reading. Remember that? You learned to do it in first grade, along with writing and 'rithmetic. A lot of options are out there.

I'm sure the moms and dads of our communities know where to get info, and so I'm really writing this for single Soldiers, because I recall that back in the day (a few centuries ago) when I was a young GI, my focus was drinking and partying, partying and drinking. That's a routine with drawbacks. First of all, it's expensive. You know the deal: Bucks spent on drinking are bucks not spent on a nice "ride" or other luxuries. Drinks cost money and burn up a paycheck. Second, not everyone was ready to drink when I was, or vice versa. Finally, at the time I believed that everyone drank, but the truth is that although many people do, most miss the fun of it. A well-made Bavarian *Bier* or an excellent glass of wine has quality, and that is the best part. Doing bad things while drunk, however, gets old.

If you're still reading, I hope it's because you realize I'm not just rattling on. I had my most memorable times in Europe — and in the United States — while doing

cool things, and "cool" was defined as something I didn't normally do. I don't know the preferred word in today's jargon, but my point is that Soldiers need to put some real enjoyment in their lives by getting out and seizing the opportunities.

All these publications are loaded with great stuff to do:

- *Training Times*, published every other Tuesday, free and found in white bins throughout the three posts, or log on to www.100asg.army.mil and pull down under "News";

- *Was ist Los*, an electronic calendar of off-post events, including flea markets, Volksmarches, concerts and exhibits, downloadable from the same site;
- *Bavarian-American*, printed each month, free and distributed at commissaries, Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores, mail rooms and other locations;

- *Box Bulletin*, another free monthly, available on Hohenfels at AAFES, the commissary and the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment's dining facility, or on the Web, as above;

- *Stars & Stripes*, daily (but especially Thursday's edition featuring the travel section), sold in AAFES, commissaries and all those blue boxes.

Another place to find out what's happening is the bulletin board in your community mail room. It's always covered with flyers publicizing Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities, including trips run by Information, Tickets and Reserva-

tions and Outdoor Recreation [see also page 9]. The latter has details and equipment for every sort of sporting pursuit — bicycles, kayaks, hiking and climbing gear. You name it, and they'll work it.

Not that adventurous? SATO can put you on a train bound for Berlin or a plane to London for the weekend. Hit the beaches in Spain; tour Venice; see the whole continent, one city at a time. They're all cheaper than you think.

Once you've seen the possibilities, pick a place — one you've always dreamt of visiting — and

Soldiers need to put some real enjoyment in their lives by ... seizing the opportunities.

make a plan. Talk to some friends, save a few bucks by cutting back on a bottle or two of brew, rent any necessities from Outdoor Rec, buy your ticket and then follow through:

Go! That's sucking out all the marrow of life, as Thoreau put it.

After you get back, you'll reminisce over what a great time you and your pals had. Why is it important to make your own mental souvenirs? Just think back to whatever you consider a good time. Any fond recollections of hangovers?

Here's the bottom line for all of you singles: Get out of the alcohol rut and add some quality to your life. You've got to live it, doing things that will make you smile whenever you look back, and last a lifetime, if only in your mind's eye. Don't burn up dollars — and brain cells — drinking yourself into oblivion, only to wake up with a throbbing head, empty pockets and a gaping hole where a memory should be.

HISSES

AND

HURRAHS

Hurrah to the former 409th Base Support Battalion, military police units, Outdoor Recreation, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, as well as all the community organizations and employees for making the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's welcome-home ceremony and celebrations so delightful. All activities were well-planned and carried

out with safety and sophistication. The event really showed the community's gratitude for our Soldiers and their families for their sacrifice and hard work over the past year. Thank you again to everyone who helped carry this event out. It was truly a great time!

Jenna Shell
Grafenwoehr

Submissions to *Hisses and Hurrahs* should be sent via e-mail to the editor at cara.matlock@graf.eur.army.mil, or faxed to 475-7935. Please include a brief description of the episode, along with your name and community, a telephone number or e-mail address, and the name of the person you deem worthy of mention, if known. Identities of those to be censured or criticized should not be revealed: We wish to invoke only private shame, not public stonings.

Training Times

Training Times is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the 100th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office. *Training Times* is printed by *Stars & Stripes* and distributed every other Tuesday. Circulation is 6,000 copies. Submissions are welcome. Mail letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: *Training Times*, APO AE 09114. Send e-mail to cara.matlock@graf.eur.army.mil. Telephone the *Training Times* at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.

100th ASG Commander
Col. Richard Jung
100th ASG Public Affairs Officer
Kathleen Gibbs (475-8103)
Command Information Chief
Nick D'Amario (475-6417)

Editor
Cara Matlock (475-7113)
Hohenfels Correspondent
Alice Adler (466-2479)
Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Correspondent
Kathy Jordan (476-1600)



Photo by Alice Adler

Clad in folk costume, including a feathered headdress, Nida Stuetzinger performs a dance involving a wooden bowl during the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month observance in Hohenfels May 26.

ASG communities treated to discover tastes for cultures

BY KATHY JORDAN
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

Traditional dancing, exotic fare and balmy music brought island customs to the 100th Area Support Group during free Asian-Pacific Heritage Month festivities.

In Vilseck, the annual luau on Big Mike Lake May 21 featured tunes by Tropical Sounds. Band members Doug McKay, Joe Reyes and Ed Sensano have played at the event for seven years.

Fire-throwers flaunted their skills, and dishes from Guam, Korea, the Philippines and Hawaii allowed people to sample new flavors.

"I came to enjoy the food and experience a different culture's celebration," said Spec. Resa Sergeant. "This is my first time eating this type of food; I think it's pretty good. I may have to go back there and get another plate for later."

A troupe from Bayreuth performed Filipino routines, another from Bamberg did the hula, and a group of local Soldiers danced in the style of Samoa. During their shows, the women picked members from the audience and encouraged them to try a few of the steps.

Organizer Conrad Cablay said that in planning the event, a pool of natural resources had been available, and he had eagerly drawn from it.

"Here in the 100th ASG, we have a lot of Asian-Pacific islanders," he said, "and I wanted them to come out and show their culture to the rest of the community and basically have fun."

Grace Leota was one attendee who had such ties.

"I brought my kids out here so they could see a part of their heritage," she said. "I am glad that they do it. Everybody gets to see some of everybody's culture."

Other families had come just to enjoy themselves. Belinda Hughes, whose husband deployed to Iraq with the 94th Engineer Battalion, said that had been her focus.

"I brought the kids, and we came out," she said. "We try to have a good time — to keep our spirits up."

Hohenfels marked the month on May 26 at the Community Activities Center, where people nibbled on saté and the like while watching tae kwon do demonstrations and several dance numbers by Grupong Filipino Alemanian.

Army Ball: Come one, come all

100TH ASG PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Free shuttle service from Grafenwoehr and Vilseck will whisk party-goers to the Army Birthday Ball June 16 at the *Ostbayernhalle* in Kreuth, near Hohenfels.

Active-duty personnel, National Guardsmen, Reservists, Department of the Army civilians, contractors, family members, retirees, veterans and their guests are invited.

Buses will depart from the Tower Theater and the Langenbruck Center at 4:30 p.m.

Cocktails will start at 6. A buffet dinner featuring turkey *Cordon Bleu*, pasta, jambalaya, roast beef, baked potatoes, salads and apple strudel with vanilla sauce will be served at 7.

The 230th annual event will celebrate the Army's history,

traditions and service to the nation during 10 wars. Retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan will speak on this theme at 8:30.

This year, the ball will also fete German-American friendship, as part of the "95-60-50" festivities (see *Rodeo*, page 8).

Dancing will begin at 9. Buses will return to Grafenwoehr and Vilseck at a time to be determined.

Free parking will be available near the hall. Those who wish to have photographs made may do so for a fee.

Attire is mess jacket, dress blues or Class A's for military personnel and formal wear for others.

Tickets are 20 euros and available from Maria Ionescu, 475-8395, or unit S-1s and first sergeants.

In brief

Scholarship recipients

Christina Clark of Grafenwoehr, Benjamin Landy of Vilseck and Tiara Walz of Hohenfels each have won \$1,500 for college from the Defense Commissary Agency.

Each year, 500 students worldwide receive these awards under the Scholarships for Military Children program, administered by the Fisher House Foundation, which builds visitors' accommodations near military hospitals.

For more information, visit www.militaryscholar.org.

Overseas tax deadline looms

The deadline to file a 2004 return for Americans living, working or stationed abroad is June 15.

To schedule an appointment at your local tax center, call 475-7777, 476-2289/3316 or 466-2401.

'Mission' essential

A video highlighting the National Security Personnel System is available for viewing online.

NSPS: Towards a Mission-Centered Workforce, is 17 minutes long and includes commentaries from several people working on Department of Defense demonstrations.

To access this tool, log on to www.cpol.army.mil/library/

general/nsps and click on the appropriate link.

Know your risks

Before holding a special event or taking a trip, all unit commanders, Department of Defense agencies and private organizations within the U.S. Army Garrison – Grafenwoehr domain must submit a risk-assessment work sheet to USAG-G Antiterrorism-Force Protection for approval.

The office might suggest protective measures, postponements or cancellations if the dangers are considered insurmountable.

For more information, contact Joel Blakeney at 475-8827/8825 or joel.blakeney@graf.eur.army.mil.

Leisure Needs leeway

The deadline to return Morale, Welfare and Recreation Leisure Needs Surveys has been extended until June 17.

The poll gathers information about customers' activities, as well as satisfaction with facilities and programs.

The survey was distributed to active-duty Soldiers, spouses, civilian employees and military retirees at their workplaces or through the mail, but they may also be completed online.

Memorial for Grafenwoehr DAPS manager today

Robert Lee Launius Jr., a supervisor with the Document Automation and Production Service facility in Grafenwoehr, will be honored with a service at 2 p.m. today in the Grafenwoehr Chapel.

Launius, 48, was found unresponsive on the floor of his office at about 4:11 p.m. June 1. Medics from the local health clinic attempted to revive him and pronounced him dead at 4:29. At press time, an autopsy was to be conducted at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Launius retired from the Army after 20 years in January 1997. He began his civil service career with DAPS in Vicenza, Italy, after retiring from Headquarters Support Company, Southern European Task Force.

During his time in the military, Launius was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Multinational Force and Observers Medal, the NATO Medal, the Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

He was a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons' Master of George Washington Lodge No. 585 and the American Military Scottish Rite Bodies.

Launius had worked at DAPS Grafenwoehr since September 2003.

He is survived by his wife and son.

DON'T GET THE WRONG TICKET ON YOUR BIG DATE.

Click it or ticket

Seat-belt mobilization campaign

Heading home

How to pack up your stuff, prepare your pets and get rid of your POV

Ounce of prevention protects possessions



Photo by Alice Adler

Ready for takeoff

Pets traveling to America this summer must have a trilingual health certificate issued by a veterinarian within 10 days of the flight. Vaccinations are required annually and must be given at least 30 days prior to a health certificate. If you are flying Aug. 1, for example, and your pet has not had shots since Aug. 2, 2004, he must be vaccinated before July 1. To make an appointment, call your local vet clinic at 476-2370 or 466-4560.

GRAFENWOEHR LAW CENTER

With summer two weeks away, the peak season for permanent change-of-station moves is in full swing. Because the Army cannot reimburse you for all loss or damage, taking steps to reduce your risk of it is wise.

Worth thousand words

Under Army regulations, you must prove that you owned any property for which you file a claim and that it was shipped. The day before the movers come, either photograph – or, better still, make a video-recording of — all valuables, including crystal, china, porcelain figurines, stacks of compact discs, stereo components and anything else expensive. Turn on your television, stereo and other electronics or appliances before taking pictures to show that these items were working immediately before they were packed.

Videos and photographs are also helpful when the carrier loses property. If a box of clothes is lost, but you took a picture of the clothes hanging in your closet before you packed, identifying what is missing will be easier.

When you move, take these photographs or videos with you. Such crucial pieces of documentation should never be sent with household goods. If part or all of your shipment is lost, you will have obvious proof of ownership.

Family jewels

Jewelry and other small, precious things should be carried with you, not tendered to movers. Army regulation does not forbid shipping such items, but stringent rules govern the payment of claims for them.

The risk of jewelry's being lost or stolen when packed as part of household goods is significant. Moreover, jewelry often has

sentimental value, making it impossible to replace.

Paper trail

Get in the habit of retaining receipts for all major purchases and keep them with the videos or pictures of your property. Warehouses do burn down, and shipments are sometimes lost; if these records were with your household goods, substantiating the value of your loss will be more difficult.

If you do not have records of purchase, gather owner's manuals, warranty cards or receipts for repairs and take these papers with you. They may be used to establish your ownership of lost or stolen property.

Before your belongings are packed, prepare an inventory, writing down serial numbers for valuable items, such as stereos, televisions, camcorders, computers and bicycles. Make a complete list of your cassettes, compact discs, DVDs and videos as well, cataloging them by artist or title.

On guard

Keep a briefcase with your essential papers (e.g., orders, passports and plane tickets), along with any small, pilferable items (jewelry, wallets, purses, cash or cameras) in a place not accessible to the movers.

Ask the packers to list serial numbers for all items on the separate inventory they prepare before you sign it. They are not required to do this, however; if they refuse, add them yourself at the bottom of their inventory in the "remarks/exceptions" block.

When shipping large collections of compact discs, videocassettes, DVDs or computer games, have the movers list the quantity on their inventory. Again, if they won't, write the quantity in the block for remarks and refer to the inventory line number (for example,

"line 52 contains 80 compact discs"). Do the same for porcelain objects, crystal, china, et cetera.

Once the movers have packed your household goods, they will present their inventory to you. Review this carefully before you sign it. Every carton in the shipment should be listed singly. If they have exaggerated the amount of damage to something, you should record your disagreement on the inventory in the "remarks/exceptions" block directly above your signature. Arguing with the movers is pointless; simply note the discrepancy on the form. When you sign the inventory, you are agreeing with the carrier about the nature and condition of the property entrusted to him. If your sofa did not appear on the inventory and it comes up missing, you will be required to prove that you shipped it. That can be quite problematic without clear evidence.

Exit strategy

Remember that the Army claims system cannot pay full value for every lost, damaged or destroyed item, and that maximum amounts have been set for various types of property. If you own very expensive things, such as antique furniture, a piano, jewelry, and high-end electronics, or a great many stamps, baseball cards, pieces of crystal, or tools, for instance, call your claims office at 475-8428, 476-2240 or 466-2401 as soon as you receive orders to find out how much the Army can pay for such possessions. Then notify your insurance agent well in advance of your move and buy any additional coverage needed.

Should you suffer loss or damage to your property, promptly contact the claims office at your new duty station to find out whether the Army can compensate you.

Getaway cars

DIRECTORATE OF LOGISTICS

Before leaving Germany, all Soldiers and civilians must be cleared by the vehicle registration office. Personnel who do not have privately owned vehicles shipped to their new duty stations at the government's expense must dispose of them properly. Abandoning a POV violates German law and U.S. Army, Europe, regulations, and those who do so can be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and suffer administrative actions.

Vehicles may be sold or donated, either with tax and customs privileges afforded by the Status of Forces Agreement or without them, after settling German taxes and customs liabilities. Selling, giving or otherwise disposing of a POV that is under a lien without the lienholder's written consent is prohibited. Call the military customs office at 476-2105/2106 or 466-2012 for more information.

You may also donate a vehicle to your local Morale, Welfare and

Recreation fund using AE Form 190-1Z-R (certification of release/donation of POV). Auto Crafts Centers charge \$60, plus towing fees. To learn more about this program, phone 476-2521, 475-6239 or 466-2690/4016.

Those pressed for time may appoint an agent to handle the matter in any of the above ways after they have departed. To authorize this, an official at the field registration station must complete the necessary form.

Alternatively, take the vehicle to a local German junkyard after obtaining a permit of transfer from military customs (see above).

The 100th Area Support Group Directorate of Resource Management will dispose of unwanted POVs given to the 100th ASG Directorate of Logistics — at no cost to the owner. Call Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Castro at 475-8510 for details about this service.

Anyone who opts to donate his vehicle is responsible for delivering it to the person or facility.

Shuttles

Continued from page 1

Soldiers may sign up for seats during final out-processing in building 700. Commercial buses leave from the Kristall Inn parking lot, adjacent to building 275, according to the schedule below:

Rhein-Main

Board – 10:30 p.m.

Depart – 11 p.m.
Arrive – 3 a.m.

Munich

Board – 11:30 p.m.
Depart – Midnight
Arrive – 3 a.m.

Nuremberg

Board – 1 a.m.

Depart – 1:30 a.m.
Arrive – 3 a.m.

Passengers, especially those who have small children, should pack provisions for the trip, as most airport restaurants will not open for breakfast until several hours later.

Local DPW employs award-winning duo

BY SUSAN PERRON
SPECIAL TO TRAINING TIMES

Despite having jobs in communities where trenches, road work, construction and renovations have become business as usual, two 100th Area Support Group Directorate of Public Works civilians overcame these adverse conditions to win Department of the Army engineering competitions.

Patrick Bennett and Gerhard Hoessl received awards from Geoffrey Prosch, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for installations and environment, March 30 at the Association of the U.S. Army Symposium in Kansas City, Mo. Both were cited for their exceptional performance records in maintaining, supporting and improving quality of life.

Bennett was selected as the William C. Gribble, Jr., DPW Executive of the Year for his managerial excellence, customer satisfaction and increased productivity.

"When I got the call from Heidelberg, I thought the award was for IMA-E [Installation Management Agency – Europe], which would have been quite an honor in itself," he said. "When the caller told me I had won the 'big banana,' I almost fell out of my chair."

As the technical or deputy director, Bennett is responsible for the day-to-day activities of DPW which, since the merger of the 409th Base Support Battalion and 100th ASG staffs into one garrison, now has more than 500 employees, according to director Lt. Col. Scott Flanigan.

"Pat ... is a source of sound advice," he said. "It's great to see him recognized at such a high level for his dedication and lengthy service to the U.S. Army."

A proven subject-matter expert with more than 40 years of experience, Hoessl was named

DPW Business Management Executive of the Year for customer satisfaction, innovations, automated improvements, and programs that successfully integrate requirements and plans.

"As the chief of the work management/customer-service branch, Mr. Hoessl is a key player in the process that takes a customer's work-order request and translates it into action that actually gets something fixed, built or otherwise done," said Flanigan, explaining that Hoessl's behind-the-scenes efforts were "one of

the keys to our success in that arena.

"He is highly respected by his peers for his expertise and commitment," added Flanigan.

Hoessl said he too had been surprised by the honor.

"In my 43 years working for the Army, I always was a hard worker, and I was never bucking for an award," he said. "Nevertheless, I was surprised when I heard that I won a worldwide competition just for hard and innovative work, which is a matter of course to me."

According to Flanigan, however, Bennett and Hoessl were highly deserving and had reason to be proud of their achievements.

"The competition for these DPW awards is intense," he said. "Just to be the Installation Management Agency – Europe nominees is quite a feat, but to then be selected as the Army-wide winners is testimony to their professionalism and expertise."

In turn, each manager conferred credit for his own success.

"I ... work with the best team here in Vilseck," Hoessl said, "and, therefore, I consider them as true winners of the award."

Bennett had the same praise for his staff in Grafenwoehr.

"We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and capable workforce," he said.

When I got the call from Heidelberg, I thought the award was for IMA-E [Installation Management Agency – Europe], which would have been quite an honor in itself. When the caller told me I had won the "big banana," I almost fell out of my chair.

Patrick Bennett
Executive of the Year



Photo by Kathy Jordan

Hit parade

Vilseck celebrated Memorial Day May 30 with its annual procession, led by (left to right) Col. Dana Pittard, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander; Col. Richard Jung, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Burns, both of the 100th Area Support Group; and Tonya Faulkenburg, whose husband was killed in Fallujah, Iraq. Joining them on their march to the community monument were the high-school color guard, representatives of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter, Boy and Cub Scouts, the Dagesteiner band, members of the Veterans and Soldiers Association of Sorghof, and a number of spectators.

In brief

Mood measurement

To gauge employees' attitudes in the aftermath of the merger, surveys are under way in Grafenwoehr today and June 8, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., in the conference room of building 537.

In Vilseck, they will be conducted June 10 and 16, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the conference room of the in- and out-processing center, building 700.

Soldiers assigned to the 100th Area Support Group, as well as local nationals and Department of the Army civilians, are required to participate, which should take 20 to 30 minutes.

'Exceptional' outing

The Exceptional Family Member Program will host its annual picnic at Little Mike Lake in Vilseck June 11, 12 to 3 p.m.

Call 476-2650 for information.

Curtain goes up on 'Cat'

The Bavarian Arts Guild will stage Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in the multipurpose room of Vilseck High School.

Performances are scheduled June 15, 17 and 18, 7 p.m., and June 19, 2 p.m. Doors will open 30 minutes before showtime.

Tickets may be reserved by logging on to www.geocities.com/vilseckbag. They will also be sold at the door.

For more information, send an e-mail to vilseckbag@yahoo.com.

Volunteer opportunity

The Grafenwoehr office of the American Red Cross will offer a free volunteer orientation June 21, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Call 475-1760 for more details.

OCS board

The next Officer Candidate School board will convene July 12, 9 a.m., in the command conference room of 7th Army Training Command headquarters, building 621, in Grafenwoehr.

Packets must be submitted to G-1 by July 5. Applicants should contact their S-1 for assistance.

Sergeants sought

A recruit-the-recruiter team will conduct two 70-minute briefings Aug. 19: 9:30 a.m. at the Tower Theater in Grafenwoehr and 1:30 p.m. at the theater in Vilseck.

All Soldiers in the rank of E-4 through E-7 are encouraged to attend. Those who do will incur no obligation, and spouses are welcome.

Recruiters earn \$450 per month in special-duty pay, as well as badges and promotions, and have priority when choosing assignments. To find out more about benefits, log on to www.usarec.army.mil/hq/recruiter.

For more information about the briefings, call 475-6753.

Under construction

Through June 11, traffic in Grafenwoehr has been rerouted from the intersection of Wilbur Road and Saratoga Avenue. Drivers should follow the signs and be prepared for an increased number of supply trucks.

Renovations to buildings 107, 123, 127, 129, 129-A, 131 and 132 have begun for the new headquarters of 7th ATC Brigade in Grafenwoehr. Parking for employees and visitors to the elementary school, the dental clinic and building 123 will be limited. Patrons of the library will not be affected until its collections are moved to building 445 in July.

Lexington Avenue in front of headquarters, building 621, will be closed June 20 to 24 for road work. Detours will be marked.

Closures, changes

The Grafenwoehr food court across from Community Bank will close July 1. Popeye's and Taco Bell will reopen in the expanded Post Exchange, scheduled for completion in 2007.

The airfield gate in Vilseck will close on the last day of school, June 16, for the summer. It will reopen when classes begin in the fall.

Paris in springtime

La cuisine, les vins, la histoire, l'art, le shopping ...
All this plus a certain joie de vivre: C'est magnifique!



Photos by Alice Adler

Museum-goers enter the Louvre through the I.M. Pei-designed pyramid, one of the most controversial buildings in Paris. An ornate facade of the museum looms through the panes.

BY ALICE ADLER
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

Ah, Paris. On any list of the world's greatest capitals, this city — a vast modern metropolis dotted with charmingly old-fashioned enclaves — would surely rank near the top. Because it stylishly combines the virtues of the contemporary age while reveling in centuries of history, the City of Light never grows dull. Indeed, the sights are so copious and varied that a guidebook is essential. Potential travelers would do well to decide what they most wish to see before hitting the pavement. A detailed map is also *indispensable*, for Paris is an intricate menagerie of neighborhoods, each with its own flavor, and the innumerable backstreets can quickly wind away into another *arrondissement*.

A few places in Paris are *de rigueur* — the Eiffel Tower, *par exemple*. Built in 1889 for the World's Fair, what was intended as a temporary structure has become the city's omnipresent symbol and its most-photographed landmark. Long lines of tourists wait almost continuously for the elevators that take them to the top for panoramic views, but you can avoid them — and work off those famous French pastries — by walking as far as the second level, which affords a marvelous prospect too.

Another must-see is the archetypal museum, the Louvre, which, as a former palace, is a veritable work of art itself. Extensive gardens surround the Renaissance-era edifices, and the glass pyramid designed by architect I.M. Pei has invoked heated debate and been a tourist attraction in its own right since its completion in 1989.

Within the Louvre's 12 miles of corridors, more

than 300,000 pieces are exhibited. As one could visit every day for a year and not see them all, this feat should not be attempted in an afternoon. Decide what interests you most — Greek statues? Egyptian artifacts? Flemish paintings? — and head in that direction, preparing to encounter a wealth of delightful distractions along the way.

Notre Dame commands the *Ile de la Cite* in the middle of the Seine, which flows through the heart of Paris. On a continent clustered with cathedrals, it stands as one of the finest examples of Gothic

architecture. Step inside to appreciate fully the exquisite stained-glass rose window and note the spidery flying buttresses, which were quite innovative when constructed.

So many other things to see! The *Arc de Triomphe* is a fun spot at which to have your photograph taken. Napoleon's tomb is inside a veterans' hospital and military museum that resembles a palace. *Pere Lachaise* cemetery is the burial

ground for an assortment of luminaries, including Oscar Wilde, Edith Piaf and Jim Morrison. The *Musee d'Orsay* and the *Centre Georges Pompidou* house excellent collections of Impressionist and modern art, respectively.

No matter what you decide to do, take time to relish the culinary riches, whether that means lunching at a sidewalk café in the Latin Quarter, indulging in a deliciously prolonged dinner at a venerable restaurant, or simply picnicking with a bottle of wine, a crusty baguette, and selection of local cheeses. Paris is a feast for the palate as well as the eyes, and its streets are peppered with eateries where citizens of the world who have come to call the city home add their native dishes to this melting pot, always *astir*.



Notre Dame is situated on the banks of the Seine (above), a vital part of Parisian life. Within the dark recesses of this Gothic cathedral, hundreds of candles flicker in the City of Light (inset).



The Rubens Room at the Louvre features a number of large canvases by the Flemish master and benches from which to admire them (above). At right, the iconic *Tour Eiffel* towers over the city.



(Counterclockwise from above) Sitting in a sidewalk café is a *tres agréable* way to pass an afternoon, and the streets of Paris contain more than 10,000, including *Le Bonaparte*, one of untold Napoleonic namesakes, including the *Arc de Triomphe*, which the emperor commissioned as a tribute to himself. A classical verdigris figure grapples with a dragon within the peaceful splendor of the Louvre.

Class of 2005 reveals aspirations

JOURNALISM CLASS HOHENFELS HIGH SCHOOL

Asked about their post-graduation goals, local seniors responded with a variety of plans.

Kawika Wainekeneke Magsayo-Afelin: I'm planning on going back to Alaska to attend college and, afterwards, open my own restaurant.

Brandon T. Allen-Baxter: I plan on taking some college classes — maybe go to a technical school.

Matthew Ryan Blancett: Attend college at the University of Texas at San Antonio and join the military afterward as an officer

Patrick Alexander Busby: Attend Erie Community College [in New York state] for two years and then transfer to the University of Buffalo and major in becoming a pediatrician

Carlos Cynque-Clay Jones: Go to Erie Community College and major in electrical engineering for two years and transfer to the University of Buffalo

Christina Elizabeth Compton: I am going to Liberty University [in Lynchburg, Va.] this fall. I will major in English and modern languages. I plan to be a missionary or a diplomat in Africa.

David Lee Crook: Join the Army
Kristin Donovan: To go to SUNY [State University of New York at] Oneota and study either business administration or fashion merchandising; after two years, I hope to transfer to a school in New York City.

Natasha A. Felton: I'll probably stay here another year. Then my mom, brother and I will move with my dad to Georgia, where I'll study cosmetology in a technical school.

Ashley B. Gauss: Attend Lincoln University and study premed

Frederic W. Germer: I plan on



Photo by Barbara Nicklin

Members of the Hohenfels High School class of 2005 are (left to right, front row) **Brittany Murrell, Kanessa McGlockling, Whitney Mounce, Ashley Gauss, Kristin Donovan, Julia McGinnis and Teshaunna Helme;** (second row) **Stephen Ross, Jamal Green, Erin Small, Natasha Felton, Tiara Walz, Christina Compton and Nick Nelson;** (third row) **Sarah Roberts, Fred Germer, Jidell McVea, Josseline Guajardo, David Crook, Kawika Afelin and Matt Blancett;** (fourth row) **Katie Peck, Brandon Allen-Baxter, Mary Godfrey, Gabe Valenzuela, Mandy Greene, Tihana Tercek, Patrick Stillman, Patrick Busby and Lance Reynolds.** Not pictured are **Carlos Clay-Jones and Ray Noble.**

going into the Navy as an aviation electrician.

Mary Catherine Godfrey: I plan to stay in Germany for a year and take college classes on post, and then I plan to go to college in Montana.

Jamal Nicholas Green: I plan to attend Eastern Arizona College [in Thatcher] and study acting.

Mandy Lynn Greene: Attend school in Nuremberg to become a translator

Josseline Patricia Guajardo Santelices: I plan on moving to Panama City, Fla., and attending a dancing school.

Teshaunna T. Helme: I'm going to University of North Carolina at Pembroke and double-majoring in

math and psychology.

Julia Mae McGinnis: I plan on going to Baylor University [in Waco, Texas] to major in communications.

Kanessa Shanee McGlockling: I am going to South Carolina with my family, attending Midlands Technical College [in Columbia] to major in health and physical

education to become a high-school guidance counselor.

Jidell Avawn McVea: I'm going to community college in Austin, Texas, or Houston.

Whitney Hope Mounce: I plan to go to the University of Arkansas [in Fayetteville] to study dentistry.

Brittany Nicole Murrell: Attend law school

Nick Karl Nelson: Join the Air Force and be an airplane mechanic

Ray Lloyd Noble: Join the Air Force

Katie Ann Peck: I plan on attending Iowa Central Community College [in Fort Dodge] and majoring in foreign languages.

Lance Edward Reynolds: I plan to attend a college somewhere to further my knowledge in the veterinary medical fields. I want to make my way through the medical field to become a veterinarian.

Sarah Jane Roberts: I am attending Louisiana State College and then going work on a ranch.

Stephen Allen Ross: To pursue education and major in medicine; I wish to utilize my skills and join one of the branches of the military.

Erin Rebecca Small: I will be joining the Navy. I will leave Aug. 8 for Great Lakes, Mich.

Patrick Allen Stillman: My plans are to join the military.

Tihana Tercek: I am going to University of North Carolina, Charlotte, for a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and then, hopefully, on to med school to become a pathologist.

Gabriel Anthony Valenzuela: I plan to go to Grand Valley State University in [Allendale] Michigan and major in biology and minor in music.

Tiara Nicole Walz: I'm going to Dubuque University [in Iowa] to major in biology.

In brief

Prize-winning poets

The Hohenfels Library has announced the winners of its poetry contest, held for the Month of the Military Child.

In the category for kindergartners to second-graders, Soren Johnson took first place.

Taira "Tij" Jones was judged best in the seventh- to ninth-grade division.

Among sophomores through seniors, Courtney Green's entry was declared the winner.

Cathy Constable won the adult category.

Call to graduates

The annual Servicemember Graduate Recognition Ceremony has been rescheduled for June 15.

Active-duty personnel who have or will have attained associate's, bachelor's or master's degrees during the 2004-2005 school year should contact the Education Center immediately.

Phone 466-2627 for information.

Baby sitters for ball

Child and Youth Services will offer child care, 5 to 11:30 p.m., June 16 for the Army Birthday Ball (see page 3).

Space is limited, and reservations should be made through the central registration office by June 13. A \$10 deposit is required.

Children must be 6 weeks to 12 years old and registered with CYS.

For more information, call 466-2078.

Closures

- Gate 3 and Schmidmuehlen Road will be closed until 8 a.m. on June 13.

- The Child Development Center's hourly annex will be closed June 16, so that staff may provide child care for attendees of the Army Birthday Ball (see above).

- The annex will also close June 24 to July 8 for block leave. During this time, hourly care will be available with on- and off-post Family Child Care providers. Call CYS central registration, 466-2078, for a list.

Village gets saddled up for cross-cultural rodeo

ALICE ADLER
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

An old-fashioned western roundup will be the main draw at the German-American Sport and Friendship Fest, June 10 to 12 in Schmidmuehlen.

More than 200 cowboys and cowgirls from the military community and outlying towns will compete in 10 categories, and the public is invited.

The first evening will feature a disc jockey, livestock exhibits, grilled steaks, bratwursts, beer and other beverages beginning at 7 p.m.

Rodeo action will kick off the next day with two shows: 2 and 5 p.m. Coffee and cake will be sold starting at 1, and Country Stars will take the stage at 7.

On the final day, events are scheduled for 1 and 4 p.m. A range of refreshments will be available as before, and the Tom and Jessie Band will perform at 3.

Admission to the fest area is free, but tickets to the rodeo are 10 euros for those 15 and over and 5 euros for ages 6 to 14; children 5 and under may watch at no charge. Family passes for parents and as many as three children cost 25 euros.

The fest is one of the so-called "95-60-50" celebrations to commemorate jointly the 95th year of the Grafenwoehr Training Area, the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Army's postwar arrival in the area and the 50th year of the *Bundeswehr's* existence. They will run through July 4 (for others, see *Ball*, page 3; *Off post*, page 9; and *Playtime*, page 11).

Off post

- Vilseck will host the annual *Fischerfest* June 18 and 19, with angling, grilled and smoked fish specialties, cake and coffee, activities for children, and live music, including a performance by country-music group Hand Made the first evening at 8.
- In the final weeks of World War II, the Allies bombed the town of Grafenwoehr on April 5, 1945, and again three days later. In remembrance of this, the local military museum will host 60 Years of the U.S. Army in Grafenwoehr, featuring period photographs and equipment, through Aug. 31. The exhibit is one of the “95-60-50” events (see *Rodeo*, page 8).

For more German events, go to www.100asg.army.mil/sites/news/events.asp and click on “HERE” at the end of the opening paragraph.

Chapels

Vacation Bible School is set for June 20 to 24. In Grafenwoehr, children aged 5 and up will take a spiritual trek through the Serengeti, 6 to 9 p.m. Those in Vilseck will go on a Holy Land adventure in a Jerusalem marketplace, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, call your local chapel, 475-1570 or 476-1570. To volunteer, call Linda Roush, 09644-680715, in Grafenwoehr and Bernadette Mollo, 09665-915996, in Vilseck.

Arts and Crafts Centers

Grafenwoehr

- Make a wall-hanging from snippets using a no-sew method June 15, 4 to 8:30 p.m. The \$15 fee does not include supplies.
- Children ages 9 to 12 can make bags to tote to the pool June 17, 9 to 11 a.m.



Photo by Cara Matlock

High time

Spend Independence Day weekend in Prague strolling through the old town and climbing to the top of Castle Hill for a view of the Vltava and Charles Bridge (above). Passports are required, and space is limited. For fees and other details, call Information, Tickets and Reservations (see right).

Supplies are not included in the fee of \$7.50. Register for either by calling 475-6101.

Vilseck

Youths aged 8 and up will transform wooden flower pots into ladybugs, frogs, rabbits and bees June 23, 3 to 5 p.m. The fee is \$11.50, not including supplies. To sign up, call 476-2652.

Hohenfels

Basic framing techniques will be taught

June 18, 1 to 3 p.m. The \$30 fee includes supplies. Call 466-2538 to enroll.

Hohenfels

The next newcomers’ orientation will be June 20 to 24, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Take the train to Regensburg, go shopping in local towns, have lunch in a *Gasthaus* and learn German phrases. Register by calling 466-4860.

Trips and Tours

Grafenwoehr and Vilseck

- Tackle the hills of Klettersteig June 16. The \$20 fee includes ropes, harnesses and guided tour.
- Learn basic canoeing skills during a trip down the Wiesent June 17 and 18. Instruction and equipment are included in the \$25 fee.
- Hike through the Austrian Alps and stay in a mountain hut June 24 to 26. The \$169 fee includes breakfast and accommodations.

For details about these excursions, call Outdoor Recreation at 475-7402 or 476-2563.

- Travel to Triberg in the Black Forest, where you’ll see waterfalls, trails and hundreds of cuckoo clocks, June 17. The fee is \$39 for adults and \$29 for children ages 3 to 12. Sign up by June 14.
- Shop for pottery in Poland June 18. Passports are required, and the fee is \$49. Deadline to register is June 16.

For more information about the above outings, call Information, Tickets and Reservations at 475-7402 or 476-2295.

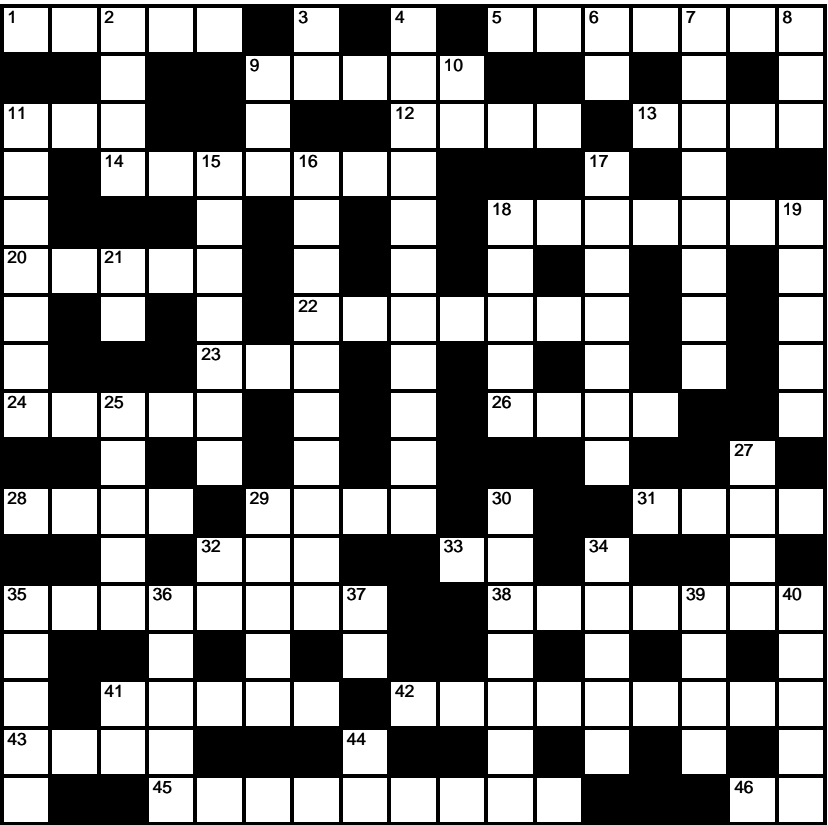
Hohenfels

- Take a day trip to Passau June 18 to visit the fortress or see where the Danube meets the Inn and the Ilz rivers. The fee is \$40.
- Go white-water rafting in Austria June 25. The fee is \$129.

Call ITR, 466-2060, to register for the above.

Crossword

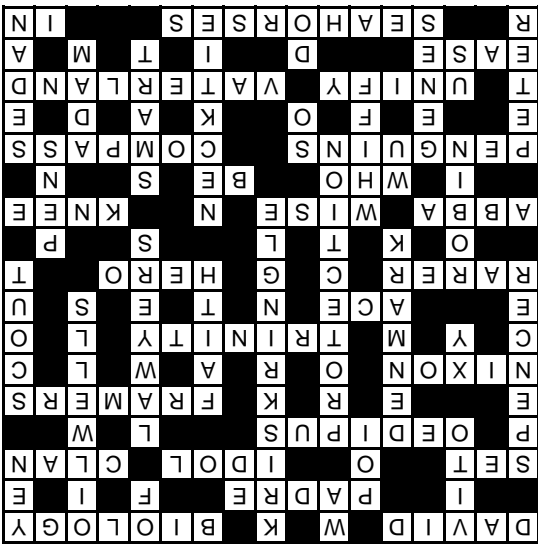
‘No one like one’s father ever lived,’ wrote poet Robert Lowell. As a foretaste of Father’s Day, this paternal puzzle pays tribute to each and every exemplar.



- Across**
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 Son was Solomon | 18 Founding Fathers | 24 More exceptional |
| 5 Aristotle father of it | 20 In White House | 26 Man admired, especially for courage |
| 9 Priest’s appellation | when day honoring | 28 Aramaic for “father” |
| 11 Football formation | dads first officially | 29 Sagacious |
| 12 Object of devotion | observed | 31 Parental part at |
| 13 Joe head of | 22 Father, Son and Holy | which one learns, |
| Kennedys’, e.g. | Ghost, collectively | figuratively |
| 14 Unknowingly slew | 23 Whiz at tennis | 32 “The father ___ does |

- not teach his son his duties is equally guilty with the son ___ neglects them.” (one word) — Confucius
- 33 “... so I simply couldn’t ___ bad” — *My Heart Belongs to Daddy*, Cole Porter
- 35 In some species, nest-sitting masculine charge
- 38 Mr. Einstein gave little Albert one
- 41 Make whole
- 42 Germany, patriotically
- 43 To comfort
- 45 For these fish, pregnancy rests with males
- 46 “Ingratitude, thou marble-hearted fiend, more hideous, when thou show’st thee ___ a child, than the sea-monster.” — *King Lear*, William Shakespeare
- some points, and you will have acquired a great deal.” — Queen Victoria of Prince Albert to their eldest son
- 7 How first President Bush made his money (two words)
- 8 Propensity, as for grilling steaks
- 9 *Natura il fece, e ___ ruppe la stampa* (Italian for “nature made him, and then broke the mold”) — Ludovico Ariosto
- 10 Bill Cosby, who wrote best-selling *Fatherhood*, has doctorate in this (abbr.)
- 11 ___ Tracy, took title role in original *Father of the Bride*
- 15 Hamlet’s poisoned papa king of it
- 16 “I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father’s ___.” — Sigmund Freud
- 17 Great many of them among 18 across
- 18 ___ of *Our Fathers* (hymn)
- 19 Her daddy deemed blue jays fair game in *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- 21 Male chromosomal pair

- 25 Storybook character Christopher ___ based on author’s boy
- 27 As presents, best have fountains
- 29 Aroma, as of aftershave
- 30 Ubiquitous gift
- 32 Hung ___, founder of Ming Dynasty
- 34 Surname of inspiration for fatherly fete
- 35 “Pop” to George Bailey in *It’s a Wonderful Life*
- 36 DNA sequences
- 37 “When I was a boy of 14, my father was ___ ignorant I could hardly
- stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.” — Mark Twain
- 39 Begot Cain and Abel
- 40 Conservative car
- 41 “From Zeus let ___ begin ... for we are also his offspring.” — Aratus
- 44 “A king, realizing his incompetence, can either delegate or abdicate his duties. A father can ___ neither.” — Marlene Dietrich



German Culture 101

Paperwork, plates, parties prenuptial whirl

BY MARTINA BIAS
SPECIAL TO TRAINING TIMES

A few years ago, “*Traumhochzeit*,” or “*Dream Wedding*,” was a popular Saturday evening television program in Germany. Contestants applied for the show by suggesting particularly unusual or romantic ways of popping the question. The production staff would help stage their proposal and film it. Often, it was the woman who did the asking — a fact that shocks many Americans. Chalk that up to emancipation or simply a weariness with waiting; many of these future mates had been together for years, and some had children.

When a German couple gets engaged, the man and the woman each wear an engagement ring on the third finger of the left hand. Wedding rings go on the right hand, meaning that to Germans, all Americans look eternally betrothed. Some celebrate this commitment with family and friends, but others see it simply as a promise between two people.

Until a few years ago, it was necessary to publish an *Aufgebot* before getting married. A couple went to their town hall and filled out forms to obtain a notice of their intent,

which would be posted for several weeks on a bulletin board outside the registry office. This practice allowed anyone who opposed the union to do so before it was legalized and thus served the purpose of the pastor’s phrase “speak now or forever hold your peace” during an American ceremony. An *Aufgebot* is no longer required, but plenty of paperwork remains. The information solicited by officials includes number of times previously married and sexual orientation. They also inquire whether you are a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

An additional benefit of the old-fashioned *Aufgebot* was that it informed the public about upcoming nuptials, so they could buy presents and drop them off at the bride’s house. German couples receive gifts from all their acquaintances, not just those invited to their wedding. When my husband and I got married, we received one from each family in our village, as well as many regular customers of my parents’ *Gasthaus* and some of their local suppliers. In return, each well-wisher is thanked shortly after the ceremony with a plate of assorted cakes and pastries or a bottle of wine or champagne.

With my mother baking and assembling and my father making rounds in a separate car, my new husband and I spent two days delivering all our tokens of appreciation. Unfortunately, someone in our family had accepted a present on our behalf and neglected to write down the giver’s name. We ended up thinking they were the only family in town who had not cared enough to send something, while they assumed we were too rude and cheap to reciprocate. This misunderstanding was not resolved until several years later when I took a thank-you plate to this family after my parents’ 25th anniversary. Someone asked whether I had not liked their wedding gift to me. We had a good laugh about this mix-up, but because most Germans are very concerned with traditions and proper manners, such incidents can lead to decades-long feuds.

In Germany, ceremonies are generally small, with only family and close friends. For this reason, the couple usually throws a big party called the *Polterabend* on the Thursday before the wedding, though to give everyone a chance to recuperate, some hold it a week in advance. *Polterabend*

translates to “noisy evening,” and a boisterous occasion it is! Because no formal invitations go out, the date, time and place are spread pretty much by word of mouth, and anybody can attend. It starts late in the afternoon at either the bride’s house (if she still lives with her parents) or the couple’s (if they reside together). According to tradition, all the guests take old dishes or glasses to smash on the ground in front of the door, which will supposedly bring the newlyweds good luck. Real jokesters arrive with a truckload of breakables, knowing that the bride and groom must clean it up — as the customary exercise in working together — before they can join the festivities. Afterward, a meal of bratwurst and sauerkraut, pea soup or goulash, or perhaps a roast pig is served, washed down with drinks from the open bar (hence the scheduled day or week for recovery). Dancing is often part of the celebration, but only after the happy pair has arrived to open the floor. The cost for this blowout is covered by either the groom’s parents or the couple themselves.

In the next issue: Tying the knot

Scaling ivory towers: Discover appeal of ‘Spargel’

BY CARA MATLOCK
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

Among vegetables, *Spargel*, or “white asparagus,” enjoys a unique status in Germany, for this edible member of the lily family alone inspires the sort of voracious ardor that leads chefs to devote page-long menus to it and villages to crown queens during harvest celebrations.

To the uninitiated, it is rather queer-looking — pale, plump, waxy stalks that, relatively speaking, bear only a passing resemblance to the imperially slender green spears with their blowy heads — and its pallor smacks of a certain blandness. It is true that the verdant variety has a more pronounced flavor, so much so that in many European countries, it is referred to as “wild,” but the subtle charms of its more refined cousin should not be dismissed.

Actually, “sibling” would be a more accurate description, as they are botanically identical. Some spears are simply given leave to bask in the sun, standing as erect as tiny sentries in the garden and growing vibrant with chlorophyll through photosynthesis, while the others are cosseted, developing underground and being unearthed before sunrise each day as soon as they protrude from the soil.

The products of such dissimilar cultivation demand different treatment in the kitchen as well. When preparing the green, to peel or not to peel is a matter of taste, but the ivory-hued skins belie a bitter toughness and must be removed. The etiolated tips are less fragile too, meaning *Spargel* may be boiled, rather than steamed upright (the preferred method for “sparrow grass,” as the former was once colloquially known in England).

The season for white asparagus begins in April, when the first bunches begin trickling in from Greece and Hungary. These have often been left rather dehydrated by their long journey and are best avoided. Within weeks, however, the stores have been stocked with locally raised spears, fresh and pristine and sometimes sold singly, so that a housewife may compose a meticulously matched set. Until the summer solstice, almost every restaurant and *Gasthaus* will offer it by the half-kilogram, accompanied by fish, veal, beef or — most traditionally — ham, along with boiled potatoes and clarified butter or hollandaise.

To cook it at home, allow a pound per person. Using the gadget of your choice (such as a swivel-bladed peeler) and starting about half an inch below the base of the tip, peel



the stalks, taking care to get every bit of the fibrous outermost layer. Trim at least half an inch from their bottoms and rinse them. Select a wide pan into which they may be laid flat, fill it with sufficient water to keep them buoyant and bring to the boil. Throw in a teaspoon of salt, a pinch of sugar and a tablespoon of butter. Then lower the aligned spears in (some chefs bundle them by the pound, which makes retrieval easier, but they tend to cook less evenly). Cover and simmer until tender when prodded with a knife, six to 20 minutes depending on thickness. No hint of crispness should remain, but neither should they be mushy. Drain well on paper towels or return cooked asparagus to pan and gently shake over high heat for a few seconds to evaporate excess water. Serve with new potatoes and *Rohschinken* (“cured ham”) sliced very thinly by a good German butcher or, failing that, prosciutto, which is more easily procured in America.

Most *Spargelkarte* are multicoursed, and many begin with *Spargelcremesuppe*, a base of asparagus stock thickened with egg yolk and milk, cream or some combination thereof, swimming with pieces of pencil-thin spears called, appropriately enough, *Suppenspargel*.

Spargelcremesuppe (Serves four)

500 grams (generous pound) *Suppenspargel* or slimmest white asparagus

6 cups water
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons butter, divided
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 tablespoons flour
1 egg yolk
1 cup heavy cream (or milk, in which case see note below)
Salt and pepper (preferably white)
Whole nutmeg
Parsley or chives, finely chopped or snipped

Wash spears well. Clean them as described above, saving peels and bottoms. Secure these in a piece of cheesecloth (this is not strictly necessary, but failure to do it will result in a tedious culling process later; alternatively, bind stalks together and leave trimmings free). Bring water to a boil, add sugar, salt, one tablespoon of butter, lemon juice, and skins and ends. Cover partially, cook for 10 minutes, place spears in as before and simmer, covered, until tender. Drain, reserving *Spargelbruehe* (“broth”), and strain this. You should have about a quart; reduce or add water as required. Separate spears from trimmings however need be and cut them into 1/4- to 1/2-inch segments.

Melt remaining butter in a large saucepan, add flour and cook for three minutes, stirring constantly to prevent browning. Half a cup or so at a time, gradually whisk in cooking liquid, keeping it free of lumps. Cover and simmer 15 minutes.

In a small bowl, beat egg yolk with cream. Slowly pour in a tablespoon or two of hot broth to warm the mixture, whisking constantly, then whisk this back into the pot. Do not let soup boil at any point after adding egg and cream. When smooth, add sliced stalks and gently heat through. Season with salt and pepper and grate over a dusting of nutmeg. Stir, ladle into bowls and garnish with fresh herbs.

Note: A lighter version can be made by substituting milk for most of the cream. To do this, pour in about 3/4 cup milk after cooking flour, whisking until smooth. Add broth and continue as above, beating only 1/4 cup cream into yolk.

The classic ending to such a springtime feast would be a tumble of perfectly ripe strawberries, with or without ice cream.

Moonstruck team takes second tourney

BY KATHY JORDAN
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

The annual Midnight Madness company-level softball tournament at the Vilseck Softball Triplex May 27 to 29 drew 13 teams who played until the wee hours, with the last game beginning at 12:30 a.m. the first night and at 12 the next.

For the second time in less than a month, the team from Company D, 3-58th Aviation, won a tournament in Vilseck. The Dragons came out of pool play with three wins and no losses to continue their streak by remaining undefeated.

First they beat Co. A, 2nd Bat-

talion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 19-5.

Next they squared off against last year's defending champions, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Operations Group, of Hohenfels, defeating them, 29-7.

Afterward, their 16-2 victory over the Hurricanes of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 63rd Armor Regiment, sent that team to the losers' bracket, where their 18-13 win against Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, meant a rematch with Co. D for the championship.

The Hurricanes and the Dragons met in a power hitters' contest,

with both teams making well-executed base hits and great defensive plays. Co. D was the home team, and by the bottom of the fourth inning, they led, 15-2. The hits continued, bringing the score to 21-4 by the bottom of the sixth. To keep the game going, Hurricane batters gave it their all in the top of the seventh but were unable to change the score.

Hitting statistics for the game were as follows: for Co. D, Miguel Martinez, 4-4 with two home runs; Robert Hickox, 3-5 with two home runs; Kevin Jordan, 3-5 with one home run; and Chad Gerra, 3-4;

for HHC, Eric Granberry and Frank McKoy, 2-3 with a home run; Brian Gonzalez, 2-3; and Scott Isom, 1-2 with a walk.

"I'm not happy with winning second place, but considering the way our team played, I can't complain," said McKoy, coach for the Hurricanes. "We played against a real strong, talented team. We have had trouble with them in the past, but overall, I am happy with the outcome."

Referee Rocko Carrero won the home-run hitters' contest for the second consecutive year, accumulating 17 over all the rounds.

James Doolittle of Co. A, 2-2 Infantry, was runner-up with 13.

Dragon pitcher, Masuda Hosein, was named most valuable player.

"I'm speechless," he said of the title. "It wasn't just me; it was everybody on the team. It's a team game. A lot of people deserve this trophy, but I appreciate it and the people who selected me."

Recreation assistant Carl Boothe said he had been satisfied with the outcome of the tournament, though some teams had suffered injuries and three had backed out.

"I think it was a lot of fun."

Swim safely this summer

AMERICAN RED CROSS

As the mercury begins to climb, people head for the pool in droves, eager for a refreshing dip.

The following tips can protect those who take the plunge:

✦ The most important thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around water is learning to swim (see *Playtime*, below);

✦ Always go with a buddy, never alone;

✦ Swim only in areas that are supervised;

✦ Read all posted signs and obey every rule;

✦ Watch out for the "dangerous too's" — too tired, too cold, too far from shore, too much sun, too much strenuous activity, et cetera;

✦ Don't drink alcohol, which reduces your body's ability to stay warm, affects swimming and diving skills, and impairs judgment, balance, and coordination; and

✦ Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts and head indoors at the first indication of a storm.

When out with children, keep these things in mind:

✦ Maintain constant supervision, watching children around any amount of water — even tubs, buckets and puddles — no matter how many skills they have acquired or how shallow the source;

✦ Don't rely on substitutes, such as flotation devices and inflatable toys, which cannot replace parental vigilance and



File photo by Alice Adler

Tessa Livingston surfaces during a Hohenfels Hurricanes' practice. As a safeguard, all children should know how to swim.

might suddenly shift, slip or deflate, leaving the child in danger;

✦ Parents should take a CPR course (watch the *Training*

Times for dates or call the Red Cross at 475-1760 or 476-1760) to learn lifesaving skills for infants and children.

Falcons fly home third in soccer

BY KATHY JORDAN
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

The Vilseck Falcons came in third at the Department of Defense Dependents Schools European Soccer Tournament May 19 to 21 in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

The boys' team faced Bitburg in their first bout, which they won, 1-0. With three minutes left, D.J. Rodgers made a goal, assisted by Jamaal Johnson.

Next they beat Naples, 1-0. Steven Tracy scored in the last five minutes, and Aaron Vernon made an assist.

Vilseck's third game was a 2-1 victory over Hanau. Their opponents were up 1-0 in the second half, when the Falcons scored two unanswered goals. Prince Charles Osiang made the first of them on a penalty kick, and Tracy scored with an assist by Jose Leon.

One of their tougher matches, against AF North, ended in a 1-1 tie. In the second half, Osiang scored on a penalty kick, but AF North soon answered with a goal of their own.

In the semifinals, Black Forest Academy defeated Vilseck, 6-0, scoring one goal during the first half and the remainder in the second.

On their last day, the Falcons played Patch for third place, dominating the game, 3-0. In the first half, Johnson and Rodgers scored, with Tracy and Osiang making assists. Tracy contributed another goal during the second, assisted by Vernon.

"It was a pleasure and a privilege to coach this team this year," said Robert Piccaro after the tournament. "I am proud of each and every one that played on the team. We just ran into a better team at the semifinals in BFA."

The Lady Falcons finished fifth among 10 teams.

playtime

Youth champs

The Hohenfels Rockies junior boys' baseball team ended their season by winning the 100th Area Support Group Championship, May 20-21 in Vilseck.

The first game was Rockies, 20; Vilseck, 7. Their opponents came back in the second bout, 9-3, to tie the series, but the Rockies won on the final day, 16-13.

At press time, Hohenfels had advanced to the U.S. Forces Europe Championship in Aviano, Italy, for the second year running.

German-American events

• The "95-60-50" festivities (see *Rodeo*, page 8) continue with U.S. community teams meeting those from the host nation on the city of Grafenwoehr's soccer fields June 13 and 17, 6 p.m.

• Male and female volleyball players of the 100th Area Support Group will take on the local competition June 21 and 23, 6 p.m.

• The Grafenwoehr *Waldbad* will host a swim meet for youths ages 10 to 15 on June 22, 3 p.m.

Americans are invited to cheer on their compatriots at all games, and admission is free.

Pool primers

The Hohenfels Hurricanes swim team, in conjunction with the Red Cross, will conduct its annual summer swimming camps this month at the outdoor pool in Neumarkt.

Swimtastic Week for 4- and 5-year-olds is set for June 20 to 24, 2 to 3:30 p.m. The fee is 60 euros, and enrollment is limited to 15.

A camp June 27 to July 1, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., is geared toward children aged 10 and older who have competitive experience. The cost is 100 euros.

Fees include pool admission, instruction and a daily snack. Transportation is the responsibility of each parent. To register, send an e-mail to bethhoe@yahooh.com.

Vilseck softball players open season with Bamberg bouts

BY KATHY JORDAN
TRAINING TIMES STAFF

Community-level softball started May 21, as Vilseck men's and women's teams took on Bamberg.

In their first of two games, the Lady Falcons won a 7-6 nail-biter. At the end of regulation play, the score was 6-6, and two more innings were required to break the tie. In the ninth, Cindy Flach hit a single to drive the winning run home. Statistics were Elizabeth Martin and Tonia Ramer, 3-4, and Angie Crossman, 2-2, for Vilseck; Ashley Bratton and Wendi Dockery, 3-4, and Suzie Anderson, 2-4, for Bamberg.

Their second victory, however, was a 14-2 spread. The game ended in the sixth inning because of the sport's 12-run rule. For Vilseck, Kathy Jordan was 4-4, and Carla Granberry and Artresa Sergeant, 3-4; Bratton, Dockery and Kimberly Robinson of Bamberg were all 2-3.

"We are off to a great start ...," said head coach Kevin Jordan. "The players are working well together, and we are looking forward to a winning season."

The Vilseck men lost twice.

The first match was close — 13-12 — and stats were as follows: for the Falcons, Chris Kiel, 3-4 with a home run; Jordan, 2-3 with a walk; and Brian Gonzalez, 3-3; for Bamberg, Christopher Ibay and Felix Marbury, 3-4, and Gregorio Rivera, 3-3 with a home run and a walk.

The score for the second was 3-8. Vilseck's James Doolittle was 3-3 with a home run, and Kiel and Frank McCoy were 1-3; Bamberg's Rivera was 4-4, and Marbury, Donald Scrivener and Shawn Williamson of Bamberg were all 2-2.

"We are still building our team up," said Reginald Peterson, head coach. "We have a lot of potential and a lot of things we can do to be better prepared for our next game."

now showing

Unless otherwise noted, the theaters in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, and movies begin at 7 p.m. Because schedules are subject to change by local theaters, please telephone for verification.

Vilseck, Mike Jurkewicz (09662-83-1790)	
Tuesday, June 7	<i>Diary of a Mad Black Woman</i> (PG-13)
Wednesday, June 8	<i>Guess Who</i> (PG-13)
Thursday, June 9	<i>Be Cool</i> (PG-13)
Friday, June 10	<i>Ice Princess</i> (G)
Saturday, June 11	6:30 p.m. <i>House of Wax</i> (R) 9 p.m. <i>Hostage</i> (R)
Sunday, June 12	<i>Star Wars, Episode III: Revenge of the Sith</i> (PG-13)
Monday, June 13	<i>Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous</i> (PG-13)
Tuesday, June 14	<i>The Ring Two</i> (PG-13)
Wednesday, June 15	<i>Ice Princess</i> (G)
Thursday, June 16	<i>Sin City</i> (R)
Friday, June 17	<i>The Upside of Anger</i> (R)
Saturday, June 18	6:30 p.m. <i>Monster-in-Law</i> (PG-13) 9 p.m. <i>Guess Who</i> (PG-13)
Sunday, June 19	1 p.m. <i>Hitch</i> (PG-13)

Monday, June 20		<i>Beauty Shop</i> (PG-13) <i>Fever Pitch</i> (PG-13)
Grafenwoehr, Camp Aachen (09641-83-6115)		
The theater does not regularly screen films because of its limited use by troops. Tune in to AFN Bavaria for announcements or phone the number above to hear a recording of the latest schedule.		
Grafenwoehr, Tower (09641-83-1790)		
Wednesday, June 8		<i>Cursed</i> (PG-13)
Thursday, June 9		<i>Star Wars, Episode III: Revenge of the Sith</i> (PG-13)
Friday, June 10		<i>Madagascar</i> (PG)
Saturday, June 11		<i>Diary of a Mad Black Woman</i> (PG-13)
Sunday, June 12	1 p.m.	<i>The Pacifier</i> (PG) <i>Be Cool</i> (PG-13)

Wednesday, June 15	<i>Son of the Mask</i> (PG)
Thursday, June 16	<i>Hostage</i> (R)
Friday, June 17	<i>Monster-in-Law</i> (PG-13)
Saturday, June 18	<i>Madagascar</i> (PG)
Sunday, June 19	<i>The Longest Yard</i> (PG-13)
Hohenfels, General Patton (09472-83-1790)	
Wednesday, June 8	<i>Cursed</i> (PG-13)
Thursday, June 9	<i>Madagascar</i> (PG)
Friday, June 10	<i>Star Wars, Episode III: Revenge of the Sith</i> (PG-13)
Saturday, June 11	<i>Monster-in-Law</i> (PG-13)
Sunday, June 12	<i>The Longest Yard</i> (PG-13)
Wednesday, June 15	<i>Robots</i> (PG)
Thursday, June 16	<i>Monster-in-Law</i> (PG-13)
Friday, June 17	<i>Madagascar</i> (PG)
Saturday, June 18	<i>Hostage</i> (R)
Sunday, June 19	1 p.m. <i>Because of Winn-Dixie</i> (PG) <i>The Upside of Anger</i> (R)

previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews • previews

Beauty Shop
Queen Latifah, Alicia Silverstone and Djimon Hounsou
The head hairdresser from *Barbershop* moves to Atlanta, where she opens her own salon with a colorful crew.

Because of Winn-Dixie
Jeff Daniels, AnnaSophia Robb and Cicely Tyson
Based on the Newberry Award-winner, this film tells of a lonely young girl and the abandoned dog she rescues.

Be Cool
John Travolta, Vince Vaughn and Uma Thurman
In this sequel to the mobster comedy *Get Shorty*, the loan shark-turned-movie producer makes another career change when he decides to try his hand at the music industry.

Cursed
Christina Ricci, Michael Rosenbaum and Shannon Elizabeth
Wes Craven takes a stab at werewolves, letting them loose in ultra-hip Los Angeles.

Diary of a Mad Black Woman
Kimberly Elise, Tyler Perry and Steve Harris
A woman’s seemingly perfect life is turned upside-down when her husband announces he wants a divorce.

Fever Pitch
Drew Barrymore, Jimmy Fallon and Lenny Clarke
This American adaptation of Nick Hornby’s popular British novel switches soccer for baseball and shows how a fan’s passion for it makes his girlfriend feel like a minor-leaguer.

Guess Who
Bernie Mac, Ashton Kutcher and Zoe Saldana
In this update of the 1967 classic *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner*, a wealthy black banker is displeased when his beloved daughter’s new boyfriend turns out to be white.

Hitch
Will Smith, Eva Mendes and Amber Valletta
A professional — and resolutely anonymous — bachelor who helps other men woo women falls for a gossip columnist whose biggest scoop could be blowing his cover.

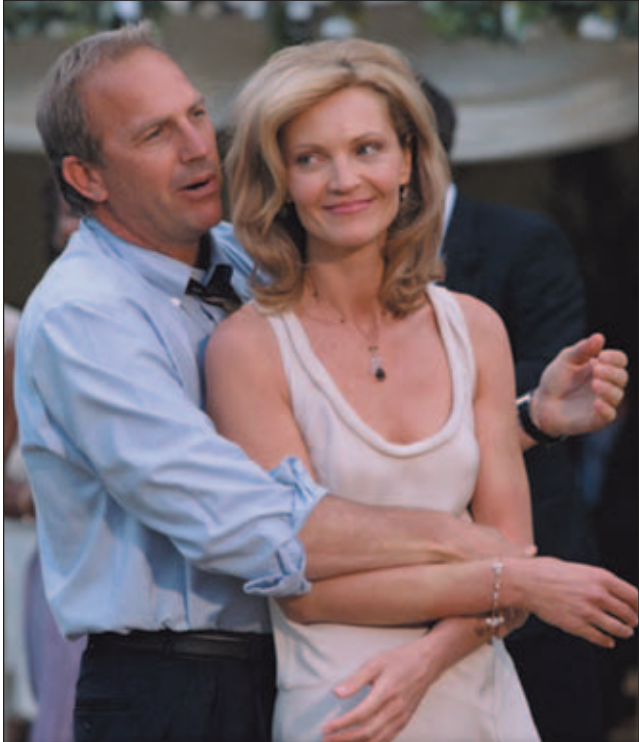
Hostage
Bruce Willis, Kevin Pollack and Jonathan Tucker
A traumatized ex-hostage negotiator serving as sheriff is thrust into another crisis when hoodlums shoot a policeman.

House of Wax
Elisha Cuthbert, Jon Abrahams and Brian Van Holt
Road-tripping collegians are stranded in a town of hideously lifelike sculptures in this recast of the 1953 horror classic.

Ice Princess
Michelle Trachtenberg, Kim Cattrall and Joan Cusack
A teen misfit risks it all to pursue her dreams of figure-skating and go for the gold.

The Longest Yard
Adam Sandler, Chris Rock and Burt Reynolds
A onetime professional quarterback and a former college football star doing time in the same prison draft a team of inmates to take on the guards.

Madagascar
Animated
An all-star cast provides the voices for this tale, in which a group of blissfully coddled zoo animals strikes off to explore the world.



Joan Allen discovers that canoodling with neighbor Kevin Costner can be considered *The Upside of Anger*.

Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous
Sandra Bullock, Regina King and Enrique Murciano
The FBI agent-cum-beauty queen leaves the talk-show circuit to rescue the kidnapped pageant winner and its emcee.

Monster-in-Law
Jennifer Lopez, Jane Fonda and Michael Vartan
A woman finally finds the man of her dreams, only to discover that his mother is a complete nightmare.

The Pacifier
Vin Diesel, Lauren Graham and Faith Ford
A Navy SEAL is assigned to baby-sit the five children of a scientist killed while working on a government project.

The Ring Two
Naomi Watts, Daveigh Chase and David Dorfman
This sequel finds the tortured reporter in a small coastal community, but the cycle of terror has followed her.

Robots
Animated
In a wonderfully clanky universe populated by mechanical beings, a young inventor takes on a corporate tyrant.

Sin City
Bruce Willis, Jaime King and Frank Miller
This piece of film noir set in a graphically violent world where it is eternally nighttime interweaves three crime stories.

Son of the Mask
Alan Cumming, Jamie Kennedy and Bob Hoskins
A father realizes that his son was conceived under the powers of the evil mask featured in the cartoonish 1994 hit, as the boy becomes an uncontrollable little fiend.

Star Wars, Episode III: Revenge of the Sith
Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman and Hayden Christensen
In this, the final installment, Chancellor Palpatine of the mighty Galactic Empire reveals the true nature of power and the promised secrets of “the force” to his closest ally, Anakin Skywalker, attempting to lure him to the dark side.

The Upside of Anger
Joan Allen, Kevin Costner and Erika Christensen
After her husband suddenly disappears, a sweet-tempered mother of four erupts with rage and finds an unlikely companion in a former ballplayer.